of India Ltd. are located at Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh) and Talcher (Orissa).

(b) The details of the closed sick fertilizer plants are given below:

Name of the PSU	Location of the units
Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC)	Barauni (Bihar), Durgapur & Haldia (West Bengal)
Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI)	Sindri (Jharkhand), Gorakhpur (U.P.), Ramagundam (A.P.), Talcher (Orissa), Korba (Chattisgarh)
Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL)	Amjhore (Bihar), Saladipura (Rajasthan) and Dehradun (Uttaranchal)

(c) Proposals have been made for setting up of brown-field gas based fertilizer plants at existing sites of Gorakhpur & Sindri units of FCI and Barauni & Durgapur units of HFC. The viability of these proposals would depend upon the availability of gas. In respect of Haldia unit of HFC, a proposal from M/s. Shriram EPC for setting up a Coke Oven Project at the existing site is under examination in the light of the proceedings of BIFR and other relevant considerations pertaining to the status of the land, etc. In the case of Amjhore unit of PPCL, FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Ltd. (FAGMIL), another fertilizer PSU under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers, has expressed its interest in reviving the unit by mining and selling the pyrites at the unit directly as fertilizers. The matter of closure of PPCL is under consideration of the High Court of Patna, where a request has been made for time for arriving at a final decision regarding revival.

Retail prices of drugs

2616: SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement uniform retail prices for drugs (maximum retail price) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it will be implemented; and

(d) the reasons for the increase of prices in certain States and the steps taken to control the increased drug prices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. The Task Force has recommended *inter-alia*, that MRP in the case of medicines should be inclusive of all taxes.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a view would be taken regarding the proposal to introduce uniform retail price for drugs.

Subsidy to single super phosphate industry

2617. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crisis ridden single super phosphate industry has urged the Government to double the subsidy on this fertilizer product;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as against the total annual fertilizer subsidy of Rs. 18000 crores, the subsidy on SSP is only Rs. 165.00 crore; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Fertilizer Association of India and some of the SSP manufacturers urged the Government to increase the subsidy on Single Super Phosphate (SSP) as the production of SSP has become